

## *Integrating Command Structures*

In most cases, naval commands (USN and USMC) are a parallel construct. While this approach supports naval coordination, it is not conducive to the true naval integration that can be gained through a combined command construct. The objective of command integration is to ensure the naval force can rapidly and flexibly engage threats whether they are based on land, air, surface, subsurface, or originate in the cyberspace and space domains. This will require our amphibious, ground, and aviation platforms to have the requisite C2 capacity and interoperability within the naval force and Combined/Joint force. To provide the unity of command that is necessary to operate most effectively as an integrated naval force, we must:

- Enhance our contributions to the forward-postured force by strengthening our partnership with the Navy, Coast Guard, and SOF in both the seaward and landward portions of the littorals.
- Enhance our C2 arrangements with the Navy to promote unity of effort.
- Focus on the operational integration of the MEF/MEB with the numbered fleet, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), Carrier Strike Group (CSG), Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) and other Navy counterparts aligned to the same region to provide naval approaches and enhance responsiveness through strengthened habitual relationships.
- Explore and exercise with Joint and regional coalition partners in support of building partner capacity and promoting interoperability in forcible entry operations and sustained major combat operations ashore.
- Increase the number of Marines assigned to staffs supporting the Combined/Joint Force Maritime Component Commander (C/JFMCC) or fleet commander.
- Explore the effectiveness of creating a single naval component for the CCMDs, tempered by recognition that each Service has independent requirements.